

Date: Sun, 29 Aug 93 04:30:23 PDT
From: Ham-Homebrew Mailing List and Newsgroup <ham-homebrew@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Ham-Homebrew-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Ham-Homebrew@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Ham-Homebrew Digest V93 #25
To: Ham-Homebrew

Ham-Homebrew Digest Sun, 29 Aug 93 Volume 93 : Issue 25

Today's Topics:

 Guide to the Personal Radio Newsgroups
 QEX?
 Various DDS articles
 What kits would you like to see?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Ham-Homebrew@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Ham-Homebrew-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Ham-Homebrew Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/ham-homebrew".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Sat, 28 Aug 1993 15:17:41 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!
moe.ksu.ksu.edu!csrcnis1.unl.edu!news.unomaha.edu!news@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Guide to the Personal Radio Newsgroups
To: ham-homebrew@ucsd.edu

Posted-By: auto-faq 2.4
Archive-name: radio/personal-intro
Revision: 1.4 06/30/93 12:04:14
Changes: new rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups, cs.utexas.edu gateway

(Note: The following is reprinted with the permission of the author.
Due to the recent reorganization, it is also on a temporarily-
accelerated posting schedule as follows:

July weekly
August bi-weekly
September back to monthly)

This message describes the `rec.radio.amateur.*`, `rec.radio.cb`, `rec.radio.info`, and `rec.radio.swap` newsgroups. It is intended to serve as a guide for the new reader on what to find where. Questions and comments may be directed to the author, Jay Maynard, K5ZC, by Internet electronic mail at `jmaynard@oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu`. This message was last changed on 30 June 1993 to add the groups created during the latest reorganization vote and the description of the `cs.utexas.edu` gateway.

History

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Way back when, before there was a Usenet, the Internet hosted a mailing list for hams, called (appropriately enough) INFO-HAMS. Ham radio discussions were held on the mailing list, and sent to the mailboxes of those who had signed up for it. When the Usenet software was created, and net news as we now know it was developed, a newsgroup was created for hams: `net.ham-radio`. The mailing list and the newsgroup were gatewayed together, eventually.

As the net grew, and as packet radio came into vogue, packet discussion began to dominate other topics in the group and on the list. This resulted in the logical solution: a group was created to hold the packet discussion, and another corresponding mailing list was created as well: `net.ham-radio.packet` and `PACKET-RADIO`, respectively.

These two groups served for several years, and went through Usenet's Great Renaming essentially unchanged, moving from `net.ham-radio[.packet]` to `rec.ham-radio[.packet]`. Readership and volume grew with the rest of the network.

The INFO-HAMS mailing list was originally run from a US Army computer at White Sands Missile Range, SIMTEL20. There were few problems with this arrangement, but one was that the system was not supposed to be used for commercial purposes. Since one of hams' favorite pastimes is swapping gear, it was natural for hams to post messages about equipment for sale to INFO-HAMS/`rec.ham-radio`. This ran afoul of SIMTEL20's no-commercial-use restriction, and after some argument, a group was created specifically for messages like that: `rec.ham-radio.swap`. This group wasn't gatewayed to a mailing list, thus avoiding problems.

While all this was happening, other folks wanted to discuss other aspects of the world of radio than the personal communications services. Those folks created the `rec.radio.shortwave` and `rec.radio.noncomm` newsgroups, and established the precedent of the `rec.radio.*` hierarchy, which in turn reflected Usenet's overall trend toward a hierarchical name structure.

The debate between proponents of a no-code ham radio license and its opponents grew fierce and voluminous in late 1989 and 1990. Eventually, both sides grew weary of the debate, and those who had not been involved even more so. A

proposal for a newsgroup dedicated to licensing issues failed. A later proposal was made for a group that would cover the many recurring legal issues discussions. During discussion of the latter proposal, it became clear that it would be desirable to fit the ham radio groups under the rec.radio.* hierarchy. A full-blown reorganization was passed by Usenet voters in January 1991, leading to the overall structure we now use.

After the reorganization, more and more regular information postings began to appear, and were spread out across the various groups in rec.radio.*. Taking the successful example of the news.answers group, where informational postings from across the net are sent, the group rec.radio.info was created in December, 1992, with Mark Salzyzn, VE6MGS, initially serving as moderator.

In January, 1993, many users started complaining about the volume in rec.radio.amateur.misc. This led to a discussion about a second reorganization, which sparked the creation of a mailing list by Ian Kluft, KD6EUI. This list, which was eventually joined by many of the most prolific posters to the ham radio groups, came up with a proposal to add 11 groups to the rec.radio.amateur hierarchy in April 1993. The subsequent vote, held in May and early June, approved the creation of five groups: rec.radio.amateur.digital.misc (to replace .packet), .equipment, .homebrew, .antenna, and .space.

The Current Groups

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I can hear you asking, "OK, so this is all neat history, but what does it have to do with me now?" The answer is that the history of each group has a direct bearing on what the group is used for, and what's considered appropriate where.

The easy one is rec.radio.amateur.misc. It is what rec.ham-radio was renamed to during the reorganization. Any message that's not more appropriate in one of the other groups belongs here, from contesting to DX to ragchewing on VHF to information on becoming a ham.

The group rec.radio.amateur.digital.misc is for discussions related to (surprise!) digital amateur radio. This doesn't have to be the common two-meter AX.25 variety of packet radio, either; some of the most knowledgeable folks in radio digital communications can be found here, and anything in the general area is welcome. The name was changed to emphasize this, and to encourage discussion not only of other text-based digital modes, such as AMTOR, RTTY, and Clover, but things like digital voice and video as well. The former group, rec.radio.amateur.packet, has not been removed as of this writing, but it is obsolete, and you should use .digital.misc instead. The group has the .misc as part of the name to allow further specialization if the users wish it, such as .digital.tcp-ip.

The swap group is now rec.radio.swap. This recognizes a fact that became evident shortly after the original group was formed: Hams don't just swap ham radio gear, and other folks besides hams swap ham equipment. If you have radio equipment, or test gear, or computer stuff that hams would be interested in, here's the place. Equipment wanted postings belong here too. Discussions about the equipment generally don't; if you wish to discuss a particular posting with the buyer, email is a much better way to do it, and the other groups, especially .equipment and .homebrew, are the place for public discussions. There is now a regular posting with information on how to go about buying and selling items in rec.radio.swap; please refer to it before you post there.

The first reorganization added two groups to the list, one of which is rec.radio.amateur.policy. This group was created as a place for all the discussions that seem to drag on interminably about the many rules, regulations, legalities, and policies that surround amateur radio, both existing and proposed. The neverending no-code debate goes here, as does the New Jersey scanner law, the legality of ordering a pizza on the autopatch, what a bunch of rotten no-goodniks the local frequency coordinating body is, and so on.

The other added group is rec.radio.cb. This is the place for all discussion about the Citizens' Band radio service. Such discussions have been very inflammatory in rec.ham-radio in the past; please do not cross-post to both rec.radio.cb and rec.radio.amateur.* unless the topic is genuinely of interest to both hams and CBers - and very few topics are.

The rec.radio.info group is just what its name implies: it's the place where informational messages from across rec.radio.* may be found, regardless of where else they're posted. As of this writing, information posted to the group includes Cary Oler's daily solar propagation bulletins, ARRL bulletins, the Frequently Asked Questions files for the various groups, and radio modification instructions. This group is moderated, so you cannot post to it directly; if you try, even if your message is crossposted to one of the other groups, your message will be mailed to the moderator, who is currently Mark Salyzyn, VE6MGS. The email address for submissions to the group is rec-radio-info@ve6mgs.ampr.ab.ca. Inquires and other administrivia should be directed to rec-radio-request@ve6mgs.ampr.ab.ca. For more information about rec.radio.info, consult the introduction and posting guidelines that are regularly posted to that newsgroup.

The groups rec.radio.amateur.antenna, .equipment, .homebrew, and .space are for more specialized areas of ham radio: discussions about antennas, commercially-made equipment, homebrewing, and amateur radio space operations. The .equipment group is not the place for buying or selling equipment; that's what rec.radio.swap is for. Similarly, the .space group is specifically about amateur radio in space, such as the OSCAR program and SAREX, the Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment; other groups cover other aspects of satellites and space. Homebrewing isn't about making your own alcoholic beverages at home

(that's rec.crafts.brewing), but rather construction of radio and electronic equipment by the amateur experimenter.

The rec.radio.amateur.misc, .packet, and .policy groups, and the rec.radio.info group, are available by Internet electronic mail in digest format; send a mail message containing "help" on a line by itself to listserv@ucsd.edu for instructions on how to use the mail server. The rec.radio.swap group is not available for reading by electronic mail. At this writing, the most recently added groups are also not available for reading by electronic mail, although that may change.

All of the groups can be posted to by electronic mail, though, by using a gateway at the University of Texas at Austin. To post a message this way, change the name of the group you wish to post to by replacing all of the '.'s with '-'s - for example, rec.radio.swap becomes rec-radio-swap - and send to that name@cs.utexas.edu (rec-radio-swap@cs.utexas.edu, for example). You may crosspost by including multiple addresses as Cc: entries (but see below). This gateway's continued availability is at the pleasure of the admins at UT-Austin, and is subject to going away at any time - and especially if forgeries and other net.abuses become a problem. You have been warned.

A Few Words on Crossposting

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Please do not crosspost messages to two or more groups unless there is genuine interest in both groups in the topic being discussed, and when you do, please include a header line of the form "Followup-To: group.name" in your article's headers (before the first blank line). This will cause followups to your article to go to the group listed in the Followup-To: line. If you wish to have replies to go to you by email, rather than be posted, use the word "poster" instead of the name of a group. Such a line appears in the headers of this article.

One of the few examples of productive cross-posting is with the rec.radio.info newsgroup. To provide a filtered presentation of information articles, while still maintaining visibility in their home newsgroups, the moderator strongly encourages cross-posting. All information articles should be submitted to the rec.radio.info moderator so that he may simultaneously cross-post your information to the appropriate newsgroups. Most newsreaders will only present the article once, and network bandwidth is conserved since only one article is propagated. If you make regular informational postings, and have made arrangements with the moderator to post directly to the group, please cross-post as appropriate.

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Jay Maynard, EMT-P, K5ZC, PP-ASEL | Never ascribe to malice that which can
jmaynard@oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu | adequately be explained by stupidity.

"If my car ran OS/2, it'd be there by now" -- bumper sticker

GCS d++ p+ c++ l+ m+/- s/++ g++ w++ t+ r

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73, Paul W. Schleck, KD3FU

pschleck@unomaha.edu

Celebrating 60 years of the Univ. of Maryland ARA - W3EAX (1933-1993)

Date: Sun, 29 Aug 1993 04:13:00 GMT

From: usc!cs.utexas.edu!csc.ti.com!tilde.csc.ti.com!mksol!blair@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: QEX?

To: ham-homebrew@ucsd.edu

I've seen references to a mag called QEX. Whats it about?

I'm always looking for new mags to pile onto my shelves

unread for years and years.

Art. =)

Date: Sat, 28 Aug 1993 21:20:36 GMT

From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!nshore!seastar!jjw@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: Various DDS articles

To: ham-homebrew@ucsd.edu

As it seems to be becoming a FAQ, I thought it would be a Good Idea to get a list of various DDS articles. There was one in August 1993 of 73 magazine using a Harris NCO and DAC, and another in 73 magazine in December 1992 and January 1993 using a Qualcomm NCO and Harris DAC. There was also one a few years back (memory fails me) using TTL chips to make the NCO, good to 524KHz in Radio Electronics, and one around 1984 in QST that I've heard of. Anybody with more info on these, or other article, please send it to me. I'll try to get issue of magazine, frequency range covered and other such info together and forward it for the FAQ list.

Aside note: anybody out there build the TW1 from December 92 issue of 73 magazine, and interested in new developments for it? Drop me a note, I've got another article pending 73 approval for a thumbwheel switch controller for it, and various other add-ons (receiver, up-mixer, preselector filter, microcontroller, better amp) in various stages of dis-array... er, construction. There's also another TW1 article soon to run (not one of mine, I'm pleased tro note!) for control via a parallel port. Anybody up to controlling a PLL from it, giving VHF coverage??? Anybody with spread-spectrum ideas for it?

(I've got one, but still have a synching problem to work out.)
73 de n9jzw -->jjw
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John Welch, N9JZW

Date: Fri, 27 Aug 1993 19:44:20 GMT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!sdd.hp.com!col.hp.com!news.dtc.hp.com!
srngenprp!alanb@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: What kits would you like to see?
To: ham-homebrew@ucsd.edu

mcovingt@aisun3.ai.uga.edu (Michael Covington) writes:
: What kind of kits would you like to see...?

How about a 5 MHz synthesized VFO? There are a number of transceivers that use this range and have provision for an external VFO. And it's a useful frequency range for home construction projects. (e.g. a 9 MHz IF gives you 80 and 20 meters with no further heterodyning.)

Tuning range should be around 4.9-5.6 MHz with 10 Hz or smaller steps. A really nice feature would be a digital readout with selectable offset so it would display actual operating frequency.

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End of Ham-Homebrew Digest V93 #25
